

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 and 29-33 are pending in the instant application. At the outset, Applicant gratefully acknowledges the allowance of claims 1-3, 6-15 and 33, and also the withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement as to allowable and generic claims 1, 4 and 29. As to claims 16-24, these claims are cancelled by the above amendment without disclaimer or prejudice to their subsequent reintroduction in a divisional application. 35 U.S.C. § 121.

In the Office Action, claims 4 and 32 are objected to for minor informalities. Claims 5 and 29-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly lacking written description in the specification. Applicant respectfully traverses, for at least the following reasons.

As amended above, claims 4 and 32 each recite the relevant structure being secured to a portion of the hanger, rather than to the hanger itself, as prescribed by the Examiner, in order to avoid any potential for ambiguity. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is kindly requested.

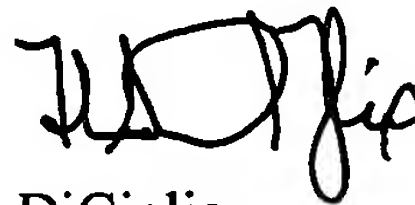
Turning then to rejection of claims 5 and 29-31, Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments previously submitted are fully supported, explicitly or inherently, in the original disclosure as filed. However, in order to avoid any potential doubt, the claim language objected to has been stricken. In claim 5, complementary profiles have been further defined as those that mate together to substantially eliminate substantially all space between the two. This is nearly verbatim to the text of the original specification as filed in describing the optional complementary profiles, for example at paragraph [0034].

Turning then to claim 29, the relevant feature was described in the original specification at paragraph [0040]. Therefore, claim 29 as amended above recites the

language of paragraph [0040], namely that the free end of the flexible locking bar is deflected in the lateral direction to the assist position of the article.

As amended above, Applicant respectfully submits that all language of the claims is fully supported in the original specification, and that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph has been obviated. Applicant kindly requests favorable reconsideration and withdrawal. Moreover, in light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims recite patentable subject matter, and kindly solicits early and favorable notice of allowability.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "F. S. DiGiglio".

Frank S. DiGiglio
Registration No. 31,346

SCULLY, SCOTT, MURPHY & PRESSER, P.C.
400 Garden City Plaza - Ste. 300
Garden City, New York 11530
(516) 742-4343 (telephone)
(516) 742-4366 (facsimile)

FSD/DJT:bk